

Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a Member of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton of New York.

“SIX TRIPLE EIGHT” CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 321 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 321) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 321) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 321

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “‘Six Triple Eight’ Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the “WAC”) as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the “WAAC”), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed “10 percenters”, the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an Executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training

schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the “ETO”) during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the “6888th”), which was nicknamed the “Six Triple Eight”.

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 civilians and military personnel from the United States served in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. For example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England, would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In February 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize “undeliverable” mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of “No mail, low morale”, the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France, in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

(9) At the completion of their mission, the unit returned to the United States. The 6888th was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

(10) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Europe encouraged the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt the following premise in their study of the WAC issued in December 1945: “[T]he national security program is the joint responsibility of all Americans irrespective of color or sex” and “the continued use of colored, along with white, female military personnel is required in such strength as is proportionately appropriate to the relative population distribution between colored and white races”.

(11) With the exception of smaller units of African-American nurses who served in Africa, Australia, and England, the 6888th was the only African-American Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II.

(12) The members of the “Six Triple Eight” received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

(13) In 2019, the Army awarded the 6888th the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the “Six Triple Eight”) in recognition of—

(1) the pioneering military service of those women;

(2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

(3) the contributions made by those women to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

(A) appropriate locations associated with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

(B) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;

(C) the United States Army Women's Museum;

(D) the National World War II Museum and Memorial;

(E) the National Museum of the United States Army; and

(F) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary

Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 146) designating April 2021 as "Second Chance Month".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 146) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 25, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 196, S. Res. 197, S. Res. 198, S. Res. 199, and S. Res. 200.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, that the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 42 and 43; Calendar No. 71, with the exception of Col. Jonathan C. Rice, IV; Calendar Nos. 72 through 106; and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's

action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Sharon R. Bannister
Brig. Gen. Paul A. Friedrichs

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John J. Allen
Brig. Gen. Jason R. Armagost
Brig. Gen. Matthew W. Davidson
Brig. Gen. Evan C. Dertien
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Downs
Brig. Gen. Troy E. Dunn
Brig. Gen. Peter M. Fesler
Brig. Gen. David M. Gaedecke
Brig. Gen. Anthony W. Genatempo
Brig. Gen. David A. Harris, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Thomas K. Hensley
Brig. Gen. Robert S. Jobe
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey R. King
Brig. Gen. Leonard J. Kosinski
Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Kunkel
Brig. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman
Brig. Gen. Brook J. Leonard
Brig. Gen. David B. Lyons
Brig. Gen. Michael E. Martin
Brig. Gen. Albert G. Miller
Brig. Gen. Heather L. Pringle
Brig. Gen. Clark J. Quinn
Brig. Gen. Adrian L. Spain
Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Tully

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Terrence A. Adams
Col. Curtis R. Bass
Col. Steven G. Behmer
Col. Joseph L. Campo
Col. Andrew M. Clark
Col. Tad D. Clark
Col. Luke C. G. Cropsey
Col. Melissa S. Cunningham
Col. Robert D. Davis
Col. George T. M. Dietrich, III
Col. Aaron D. Drake
Col. Lyle K. Drew
Col. Steven M. Gorski
Col. Glenn T. Harris
Col. Brian S. Hartless
Col. Justin R. Hoffman
Col. Otis C. Jones
Col. Brian S. Laidlaw
Col. Jason E. Lindsey
Col. Debra A. Lovette
Col. William L. Marshall
Col. Robert A. Masaitis
Col. Michael A. Miller
Col. Ricky L. Mills
Col. Randy P. Oakland
Col. Max E. Pearson
Col. Jason M. Rueschhoff
Col. Joel W. Safranek
Col. Timothy A. Sejba
Col. Stephen P. Snelson
Col. Benjamin W. Spencer
Col. Frank R. Verdugo

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Maria L. Aguayo

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Joseph B. Hornbuckle
Capt. Anthony E. Rossi

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Stuart C. Satterwhite

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Dean A. VanderLey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Christopher C. French

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) William C. Greene
Rear Adm. (lh) Scott W. Pappano

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John M. Breazeale
Brig. Gen. Matthew J. Burger.
Brig. Gen. Kenneth R. Council, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Heires
Brig. Gen. Erich C. Novak
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington
Brig. Gen. John N. Tree
Brig. Gen. Constance M. Von Hoffman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert K. Bogart

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. John R. Andrus
Col. Thomas W. Harrell

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Alfred K. Flowers, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gail E. Crawford

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Theodore D. Martin

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the